Tariff Concessions for Imports

5547. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether slashing the imports tariff has paved the way for cheaper import of industrial products and other items;

(b) if so, to what extent imports and exports position has imporved or will improve the economy of the country during the current year;

(c) whetner any monitoring system is being considered by the Government; and

(d) if so, to what extent the imports and exports will be increased after providing these tariff concessions during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Reduction in import tariff and promotion of exports are being carried out as part of the overall process of economic liberalisation and globalisation. Imports are based on the actual requirements for domestic production, consumption and exports and are related to the emerging needs of the growing economy. Based on DGCI&S data, it is observed that exports and imports have shown improvement in recent years as cited below:

(US $ Million)

Year	Exports	Imports
1993-94	22237	23306
1994-95	26330	28654
1995-96	31797	36678
1996-97	33106	38548

(Provisional)

(c) The trade performance is being monitored by the Government continuously.

(d) Imports are based on requirements and as such no targets are fixed for imports. Export performance is dependent on a number of factors including inter alia international market conditions, tariff and non-tariff barriers, domestic supportive infrastructure, cost of export credit etc. Export Promotion measures taken by the Government include changes in policies and procedures to provide for export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion, consultation with trade and industry for initiation of general and sector specific remedial measures as warranted from time to time.

[Translation]

Exim Policy

5548. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take any measures with the aim of increasing exports alongwith simplifying the procedure of new Export Import Policy (Exim Policy) during the Ninth Five Year Plan in comparison to the steps taken by the Government to increase the export during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Export promotion is a continuous process and steps taken are initiated by the Government to promote exports through simplification of policy and procedure, improving bilateral trade, debottlenecking of the infrastructure, involvement of States in export promotion, consultation with trade and industry for initiation of general and sector specific remedial measures as warranted from time to time. In the new Exim Policy coterminus with the 9th Five Year Plan the Government has focussed on making the procedures transparent and less discretionary. Considerable automaticity has been introduced in the procedures.

[English]

South-Eastern Coalfields Ltd.

5549. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether South-Eastern Coalfields Ltd., and the Steel Authority of India Ltd., are carrying out mining operations in Madhya Pradesh without any licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government to regularise them by entering into a formal lease agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) is operating three mines on the basis of working permission granted by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh as per details given below:-

Name of Mines	Notification No. with date	
Pali UG	3/88/80/12	dated 22.10.1980
Bhadra UG	4008/1636/XII	dated 14.05.1980
Govinda UG	4005/1788/XII	dated 11.05.1980

The terms and conditions governing all the three working permissions are given below:-

(i) The date of lease will be recognised from the date of issue of working permission.

(ii) Any compensation payable to any tenant or Government will be paid by the applicant.

(iii) The applicant will pay royalty as per rules and undertake mining operations also as per rules.

(c) The delay in executing formal lease deed agreement in respect of Pali UG with the State Government of Madhya Pradesh was due to the following factors:-

(i) Forest land clearance was obtained only in the year 1989.

(ii) Individual consent from the land owners is required to be obtained.

However in respect of Bhadra & Govind UG the delay is mainly with regard to obtaining individual consent from the land owners.

These matters are being vigorously followed up with the State Government and efforts are being made for executing mining lease deeds with the Government of Madhya Pradesh at the earliest.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Papers Laid on the Table of the House. Shri Murasoli Maran.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review of the working of the National Industrial Development corporation Ltd. New Delhi for the year, 1995-96

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act. 1956:-

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1925/97]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Engineering Projects (India) Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1926/97]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1927/97]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1928/97]

(iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1929/97]

(v) Memorandum of Understanding between the HMT Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Industry for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1930/97]

(vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan paper Corporation Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Industry, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1931/97]

(vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Small Industries Corporation Limited and the Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1932/97]

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year March, 1996

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 5 of of 1997) for the year ended the 31st March, 1996 (Scientific Departments), under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1933/97]

Annual Report and Review on the working of Amendable Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad for the year 1995-96

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English